

What Was Transformational About This Project?

This program was extremely transformative for me, particularly regarding my language ability. By travelling to Russia, I was able to constantly practice Russian and use my Russian skills in common, everyday scenarios. Over the course of this summer language program, I significantly expanded my grasp on the Russian language. Since I plan to work on Russian affairs in the federal government, I must be a fluent Russian speaker. My STEP project has certainly helped me get closer to fluency.

Additionally, my STEP project transformed me as a person. As a result of my project, I have gained confidence in my self, bettered my social/ communication skills, and increased my independence. Exploring a foreign country and using a foreign language really increased my self-confidence. During this study abroad, I significantly enhanced my social skills. For example, my host mother spoke no English at all, so I had to learn how to communicate my ideas differently. Lastly, by travelling, commuting, and living on my own, I certainly am much more independent.

CIEE Summer Russian Language Program St. Petersburg, Russia

Description: My STEP project was an 8-week study abroad to St. Petersburg, Russia. At St. Petersburg State University, I took Russian language classes covering grammar, conversation, pronunciation. By living in a Russian city and living with a host family, I greatly expanded my knowledge of Russian culture and daily Russian life. Living in Russia allowed me to use my language skills everyday, which really helped to increase my Russian ability.



Will Zadeskey
STEP Project Category: Education Abroad
STEP Faculty Member: Dr. James Odei
Majors: Russian and International Studies

What Motivated Me to Choose This Project?

I've studied Russian for many, many years and always wanted to visit this fascinating country. When I learned about this study abroad, I jumped at the chance to broaden my understanding of Russian culture and the Russian Language. I knew that in order to truly understand the riddle, mystery, and enigma that is Russia, I would have to travel to this amazing nation.

What Did I Learn?

- Greatly increased my Russian Language ability
- Living in Russia gave me fantastic insights into Russian culture
 - I learned about the works of Russia's greatest poets, writers, composers, and playwrights.
- I discovered a great deal about the history of the places I lived and visited.
 - In particular, I learned about Peter the Great, the founding of St. Petersburg, and the Siege of Leningrad.
- I was able to observe daily Russian life and how they go about their lives.
- I discovered differences and a surprising number of similarities between Russian and American culture.



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STEP

Second-year Transformational
Experience Program